

**Peer-to-Peer Occupational Skills Training  
Youth Opportunity Grants  
San Antonio, Texas**

**Sunday, February 24, 2002**

Sheraton Gunter Hotel  
205 E. Houston Street, Lobby  
San Antonio, Texas 78205  
(210) 227-3241

5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Registration Begins

**Monday, February 25, 2002**

7:45 – 8:15 a.m. Registration and Breakfast, Crystal Ballroom

8:15 – 8:30 a.m. **San Antonio's Mariachi Welcome!**

Lorie Ochoa, *YO Program Director, San Antonio*  
*Department of Community Initiatives*  
Kennedy High School Mariachi Band

8:30 – 9:10 a.m. **Introductions and Overview**

Dennis Campa, *Director, San Antonio Department of Community Initiatives*  
Alan Miller, *Executive Director, Alamo Workforce Development,*  
*Inc.*  
Diane D. Rath, *Chair and Commissioner, Texas Workforce Commission*  
Susan Rosenblum, *Manpower Development Specialist, U.S. Department*  
*of Labor, Employment and Training Administration*

9:10–10:15 a.m. **Creating a System to Support Occupational Skills Training:  
Identifying Key Elements**

Facilitated session to get to know workshop participants, set expectations for the workshop, and challenges for engaging youth in occupational skills training within the context of a community's labor market and economic trends.

Facilitator: Janine Gonzalez, *Business Outreach Coordinator,*  
*City of San Antonio*

10:15–10:30 a.m. Break

10:30–11:30 a.m. **Accessing and Using the Labor Market and Economic Trends**

Moderated session allows representatives of the San Antonio BETTER JOBS initiative, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, and the Texas Workforce Commission will describe how they access and use labor market and economic development trends to identify opportunities to connect youth to good job and occupational skills training.

Speakers: Dennis Campa, *Director, San Antonio Department of*  
*Initiatives*  
Randy Bruett, *Planner/LMI Specialist, Texas Workforce*  
*Commission*  
Moderator: Belkiss Bradford-Rodriguez, *YO Coordinator, St. Philip's SW*  
*Campus*

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**11:30–12:15 p.m. Situation Analysis and Action Planning**

Facilitated session to determine plans for occupational skills training, how occupational skills training was supported prior to the YO grant, and how it is being utilized now.

Facilitator: Dr. Federico Zaragoza

**12:15–1:30 p.m. Lunch Break - Hotel Restaurant**

**1:45 – 3:15 p.m. Tour de San Antonio Occupational Skills Activities**

COSA East YO Center:

- Job Developers share highlights of Career Assessment Readiness and Exploration (C.A.R.E.) training and discuss member referrals to short-term vocational training.
- Youth Development staff provide insights to enroll, engage and retain youth.

**3:30 – 5:00 p.m. St. Philip's College-SW Campus**

- Tour San Antonio's preeminent center for technical and workforce training. Get a close up look at training programs in high-demand careers such as Aircraft, Diesel, and Auto Collision Technology.
- Students, faculty and industry representatives will share insights into innovative education and training strategies such as blended academics and technical training.

**5:00– 5:30 p.m. Reception hosted by YO!'s Culinary Arts class**

**Tuesday, February 26, 2001**

St. Philip's College, Main Campus  
1801 Martin Luther King Dr., Heritage Room  
San Antonio, Texas 78203

**7:30 – 7:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast**

**7:45 – 8:00a.m. St. Philip's Introduction and Welcome**

Belkiss Bradford-Rodriguez, *YO Coordinator, St. Philip's College, SW*  
Dr. Angie Runnels, *President, St. Philip's College*

**8:00 – 9:15 a.m. Connecting Youth to Occupational Skills Training**

Moderated session includes representatives from San Antonio Independent School District, HoustonWorks, and Brockton RISE who will highlight the initial steps in successfully connecting in-school and out-of-school youth to occupational skills training. Discussion will also provide strategies involved in promising practices and challenges faced in engaging youth in occupational skills training.

Speakers: Leticia Delagarza, *YO Coordinator, San Antonio Independent School District*

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Lisa Johnson, *Project Director, Brockton RISE Youth  
Opportunity Center*  
Johnny Bright, *Project Coordinator, HoustonWorks, Youth  
Opportunity*

Moderator: Lynn Stewart, *Special Projects Coordinator, San Antonio  
Youth Opportunity Program*

**9:15–10:00a.m. Action Planning**

Facilitated session builds on prior situation analysis by determining if sites should refine or define new short-term occupational and vocational skills training goals and strategies to engage workplace partners and connect youth to occupational skills training.

Facilitator: Lynn Stewart

**10:00–11:15 a.m. Engaging Workplace Partners**

Moderated session includes panelists from the United Way in Birmingham and St. Philip's College-Campus, who will present models that support occupational skills training. Panelists will also share strategies and tactics for involving employers, unions, community colleges and other intermediary organizations to develop and provide occupational and vocational skills training.

Speakers: Dr. Federico Zaragoza, *Vice President, St. Philip's Southwest  
Campus, San Antonio*  
DeForest Brown, *Workforce Development Director,  
United Way, Birmingham*

Moderator: Frances Gonzalez, *Assistant to the City Manager, San Antonio*

**11:15–12:00p.m. Action Planning**

Facilitated session allows sites to revisit or define new tactics, timelines, and budgets for identified short-term occupational and vocational skills training goals and strategies.

Facilitator: Frances Gonzalez

**12:00–1:00 p.m. Lunch Break** catered by St. Philip's Culinary Arts class

**1:00 – 4:45 p.m. Roundtable Sessions**

Participants will select and participate in four of the following facilitated sessions. Each session will focus on information-sharing and problem-solving related to the topic. Representatives from school-to-careers, economic development, trade associations and other intermediaries will serve as resource experts in a peer-to-peer dialogue exchange among participants. Highlights will be summarized and distributed to all sites. Participants should bring examples of tools and materials related to these topics to share.

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- **Promising Practices for Work-Based Learning**
- **Engaging Workplace Partners: Employers, Trade Associations, Unions and Other Intermediaries**
- **Options for Procurement: Using an RFP, Leveraging Economic Development Incentives, and Other Strategies**
- **Addressing Special Needs**
- **Integrating Occupational Skills Training with Other Pre-Placement Activities**
- **Ensuring Success: The Role of Assessment, Mentoring, and Support Services**

4:45–5:00 p.m. **Ah-ha Moments!**

Participants will share ideas gathered and interesting interventions that may help their sites engage or re-engage youth in short-term occupational or vocational skills training.

Facilitator: Belkiss Bradford-Rodriguez

**Wednesday, February 27**

Sheraton Gunter Hotel  
205 E. Houston Street, Ludwig Room  
San Antonio, Texas 78205  
(210) 227-3241

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. **Building the Gateway through Secondary Education**

Cecilia Martinez, *YO Coordinator, Edgewood Independent School District*  
Dr. Ruben Olivarez, *Superintendent, San Antonio Independent School District*  
Dr. Luis Gonzalez, *Superintendent, Edgewood Independent School District*

9:00 – 10:15 a.m. **Promoting Linkages Between Occupational and Academic Learning—How to Integrate Basic Skills and Occupational Skills.**

Moderated session will include representatives from Boston and San Diego's Center for Employment and Training. Panelists will present models that integrate basic skills and academic learning with occupational skills training that leads to employment.

Panelists: William Vaughn, *Career Specialist, Boston YO*  
Dora Mendivil, *Executive Director, Center for Employment and Training, San Diego*

Moderator: Susan Rosenblum, *Manpower Development Specialist, USDOL, OYS*

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10:15–10:30 a.m. Break

10:30–11:30 a.m. **Discussion and Action Planning**

Facilitated session that provides an opportunity for discussion of the models presented and Qs & As. Participants will discuss whether these models exist in their communities and how linkages can be promoted for their respective sites. New or existing strategies and tactics can be modified to bridge academic learning to occupational skills training.

11:30–1:00 p.m. Lunch hosted by Member Ambassadors & YO Staff

1:00 – 2:45 p.m. **“Putting It All Together for Youth” and Reflection**

A facilitated session that summarizes “How To” develop an occupational skills training system. The summary will highlight how employer and other intermediary involvement, youth assessments, individual development plans, training, internships, and jobs can be utilized to support a multi-dimensional occupational skills training system. Includes a group activity that allows participants to creatively articulate what they learned during the three-day workshop.

Facilitators: Lorie Ochoa and Janine Gonzalez

2:45 – 3:00 p.m. **Challenge Exercise – Susan Rosenblum**

3:00 – 3:30 p.m. **Next Steps and Wrap-Up**

Facilitated session summarizes and highlights what people have learned with a focus on “next steps” when they get back to their sites. Sites to discuss strategies and action plans for creating a system to support occupational skills training and long term placements that lead career-oriented employment.

Facilitator: Susan Rosenblum

Exchange T-shirts, gift bag distribution, and farewell.